

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 /073 W  
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R 291746Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2211  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW, GE  
SUBJECT: FAZ ARTICLE ON GDR "AID" TO ESCAPEES

1. UNDER THE HEADLINE "GDR IS ENGAGING IN ALLEGED AID TO ESCAPEES - WESTERN ORGANIZATIONS ARE INCREASINGLY INFILTRATED," SEPTEMBER 29 FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG (FAZ) PUBLISHED ARTICLE CLAIMING THAT A CONSIDERABLE, ALTHOUGH INDETERMINATE, NUMBER OF ESCAPE ATTEMPTS ON THE PART OF GDR CITIZENS (PRIMARILY ON THE ROUTES OF TRANSIT TO SCANDINAVIA, POLAND AND THE CSSR AS WELL AS BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND THE FRG) FAIL BECAUSE OF THE INTERVENTION OF THE GDR'S STATE SECURITY SERVICE WHICH HAS ORGANIZED ITS OWN "AID TO ESCAPEES."

2. FAZ SAYS THAT ITS REPORT IS THE RESULT OF THREE YEARS OF OBSERVATIONS AND THAT INVESTIGATIONS WERE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, BASED ON WRITTEN DOCUMENTS AND CONCRETE INFORMATION. WITH THE HELP OF THE SOVIET KGB, THE STATE  
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SECURITY SERVICE SET UP A SOPHISTICATED SYSTEM OF

DEFENSE AND INFILTRATION.

3. FAZ CLAIMS INVESTIGATIONS PROFITED FROM THE LONG PERIOD OF TIME, IN THAT EVENTS WHICH ORIGINALLY DID NOT SEEM ESSENTIAL APPEARED IN A NEW LIGHT AT A LATER DATE AND IN A DIFFERENT CONTEXT. THE PAPER BELIEVES THAT FRG AUTHORITIES OUGHT TO HAVE AT LEAST A ROUGH IDEA OF SUBJECT EVENTS. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR COMPETENT AUTHORITIES TO QUESTION FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS OF THE GDR WHO WERE RELEASED INTO THE FRG AFTER SERVING PART OF THEIR SENTENCE. IT WOULD SEEM, ALTHOUGH, THAT THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY TASK FORCE WHICH, THREE YEARS AGO, STUDIED THE ORGANIZATION AND METHODS OF AID TO ESCAPEES ON THE BASIS OF INTERROGATION REPORTS AT THE EMERGENCY ADMISSION CAMP AT GIESSEN, FAILED TO COMPREHEND THE SITUATION.

4. ACCORDING TO THE FAZ STORY, AN INCREASING NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF BOTH GERMAN STATES HAVE BECOME VICTIMS OF EASTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WHICH INTENSIFIED THEIR ACTIVITIES ESPECIALLY IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE INFORMATION, NO FEWER THAN ABOUT 4,200 PERSONS INVOLVED IN ESCAPE ATTEMPTS OR ATTEMPTED AID TO WOULD-BE ESCAPEES ARE PRESENTLY SERVING TIME IN 67 PRISONS AND PRISON CAMPS OF THE GDR. IN COTTBUS, FOR INSTANCE, THEY ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 320 OUT OF ABOUT 500 INMATES; IN BRANDENBURG THERE ARE MORE THAN 500 OF THEM, AND IN HOHENECK ABOUT 200 OUT OF 800 WOMEN ARE SERVING TIME FOR EITHER OF THESE REASONS. FAZ NOTES IN THIS CONTEXT THAT IT WOULD COST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ABOUT 170 MILLION MARKS TO BUY THE FREEDOM OF THESE PERSONS AND THAT BONN BETWEEN 1970 AND 1975 PAID AT LEAST 250 MILLION MARKS FOR THE RELEASE OF ABOUT 5,800 POLITICAL PRISONERS.

5. THE GDR USES SEVERAL METHODS IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO BRING THE WIDESPREAD NETWORK OF ORGANIZED AID TO ESCAPEES UNDER ITS CONTROL: INFILTRATION AND ESPIONAGE (AT TIMES WITH THE HELP OF FALSE ESCAPE PLANS), INFLUENCE THROUGH COOPERATION OFFERS, AND FINALLY, BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORGANIZATIONS OF ITS OWN.

6. THESE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE GDR STATE SECURITY SERVICE RANK AMONG THE MOST DANGEROUS TRAPS IN THE ENTIRE SYSTEM OF THE GDR'S ANTIESCAPE SETUP. FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS REPEATEDLY POINTED OUT THE REASONS FOR THE LARGE NUMBER OF ABORTIVE ESCAPE ATTEMPTS. IT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME THAT THE STATE SECURITY

SERVICE HIRES FOR ITS PURPOSES PERSONS THAT WERE  
SENTENCED FOR AIDING OTHERS TO ESCAPE. A 27 YEAR-OLD  
MECHANIC WHO WAS RELEASED ON SEPTEMBER 8 REPORTED, FOR  
INSTANCE, THAT THE INMATES WERE TALKING ABOUT THE  
STATE SECURITY SERVICE SETTING UP IN WEST BERLIN ESCAPE

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IO-13 /073 W  
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AID ORGANIZATIONS OF ITS OWN, AND THAT IT WAS SUGGESTED  
TO HIM TO CARRY ON AS ESCAPE HELPER, WITH THE PROVISIO  
THAT MOST ESCAPES WOULD THEN SUCCEED.

7. OBSERVERS ARE AGREED THAT THE GDR APPARENTLY SEES  
GDR-CONTROLLED "AID TO ESCAPEES" AS A WAY FOR EVADING  
REDEMPTION NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. IN  
ADDITION, EAST BERLIN, BY USING ITS OWN "ESCAPE HELPERS,"  
SHORTCUTS ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES WITH ALL THE ADMINISTRA-  
TIVE TROUBLE THEY INVOLVE: DETECTION BY TREASON,

ARREST AND SENTENCING OF THE WOULD-BE ESCAPEE AND HIS  
HELPER/S, BURDENING THE ADMINISTRATION-OF-JUSTICE  
SYSTEM, NEGOTIATIONS WITH BONN, AND RELEASE OF PRISONERS  
BOUGHT FREE INTO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THE NEW  
APPROACH REDUCES THIS ENTIRE PROCESS TO THE ONE  
THING THAT COUNTS FOR THE GDR: A CONSTANT INFLUX  
OF HARD CURRENCY IN THE FORM OF REDEMPTION PAYMENTS.  
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8. MOREOVER, UNDER THIS SYSTEM, IT IS UP TO THE GDR TO  
DECIDE WHEN AND HOW OFTEN THERE SHOULD BE ARRESTS. THE  
STATE SECURITY SERVICE CAN SELECT AMONG WOULD-BE  
ESCAPEES AND DECIDE WHO SHOULD BE LET OUT. ANOTHER  
ESSENTIAL, THOUGH NOT DECISIVE, ADVANTAGE OF THE NEW  
APPROACH IS THAT IT IS STILL POSSIBLE TO  
USE THE ARREST OF WOULD-BE ESCAPEES FOR CONSTRUCTING  
"VIOLATIONS OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT" AND FOR USING THE  
LATTER FOR POLITICAL PROPAGANDA MANEUVERS AGAINST BONN.

9. ANOTHER FORM OF ORGANIZATION IS THE COORDINATION OF  
LISTS WITH COMMERCIAL ESCAPE HELPERS IN THE FRG, WHERE-  
BY THE STATE SECURITY SERVICE OFFERS SO-CALLED "FREE  
QUOTAS" THAT ARE LARGER THAN THE PERCENTAGE OF ESCAPE  
ATTEMPTS THAT WOULD FAIL IN THE ABSENCE OF COOPERATION  
WITH THE GDR. COOPERATION OFFERS OF THIS SORT WERE  
FIRST REPORTED IN 1972.

10. IT IS SAFE TO ASSUME, THE FAZ CONTINUES, THAT  
AN IMPORTANT ESCAPE AID ORGANIZATION EVEN OBTAINED SOME  
SORT OF PROMISE FROM THE STATE SECURITY SERVICE.  
THIS ORGANIZATION OPERATES OUTSIDE THE TRANSIT ROUTES  
BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, THAT IS,  
IN TERRITORY WHERE ARTICLE 16 OF THE TRANSIT  
AGREEMENT (WHICH STIPULATES THAT VEHICLES MAY ONLY BE  
SEARCHED IN THE EVENT OF AMPLE SUSPICION OF MISUSE)  
DOES NOT APPLY.

11. AFTER NUMEROUS INDICATIONS CONCERNING A CERTAIN  
MEASURE OF GDR PARTICIPATION, FAZ SAYS IT OBTAINED IN  
1974 INFORMATION OF A CASE IN WHICH A MOTHER, ACCOM-  
PANIED BY HER SIX-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER AND A NURSE, TOLD  
AN ESCAPE HELPER WAITING FOR HER IN THE DARK BY A ROAD-  
SIDE OUTSIDE OF LEIPZIG THAT IT WOULD BE MOST UNSAFE TO  
"HIDE" IN THE TRUNK COMPARTMENT OF HIS VEHICLE, WHERE-  
UPON THE HELPER ASSURED HER, "I GUARANTEE YOU THAT THIS  
TRUNK COMPARTMENT WILL NOT BE OPENED." THE PAPER ADDS  
THAT THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST COOPERATION OFFER OF THE  
STATE SECURITY SERVICE TO THIS ESCAPE AID ORGANIZATION.

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12. FAZ CONCLUDES BY REPORTING ON A LETTER WHICH IN MAY 1972 WAS CHanneled TO A WELL-KNOWN ESCAPE AID ORGANIZATION BY A GDR CITIZEN ALLEGEDLY SEEKING TO ESCAPE. THE PAPER CLAIMS TO BE IN POSSESSION OF A XEROX COPY OF THIS LETTER WHOSE WRITER CLAIMED THAT HE WAS A COLONEL IN THE GDR MINISTRY FOR STATE SECURITY AND THAT HIS ESCAPE FROM THE GDR WOULD BE "OF EXTRA-ORDINARY POLITICAL IMPORTANCE." HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WOULD BE "NO LIMIT" TO THE PRICE OF HIS ESCAPE, AND THAT HE WOULD BE REIMBURSED BY IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE FRG . HE HAD GOTTEN INTO POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES AND HAD GONE IN HIDING AFTER HAVING BEEN SENTENCED TO PRISON BY THE SUPREME MILITARY COURT. THE WRITER OF THIS LETTER SOUGHT TO PROVE THE AUTHENTICITY OF HIS STORY BY CLAIMING THAT HE HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED ON A SPECIFIC DATE IN A CERTAIN EAST BLOC CITY BY A CORRESPONDENT OF THE WEST GERMAN RADIO NETWORK. BUT THIS CORRESPONDENT, WHO TODAY HOLDS A HIGH-RANKING POSITION IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, COMMENTED ON JAN. 17, 1974, THAT HE WAS NOT IN THE EAST BLOC ON THE DATE MENTIONED, ADDING, "I SUSPECT A FABRICATION."  
HILLENBRAND

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